

Deep Exploration and Filtering of Text (DEFT)

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DARPA Contracts Management Office

Proposers' Day
Arlington, VA
May 16, 2012





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BAA PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Solicitation will be released utilizing BAA procedures in accordance with FAR 35.016
- The BAA (and any amendments) will be posted in FEDBIZOPPS at www.fbo.gov and Grants.gov at www.grants.gov
- BAA allows for a variety of technical solutions
- Proposal evaluations will be accomplished through a scientific review using the evaluation criteria stated in the BAA.
- The BAA will contain an initial closing time/date and a final closing time/date and these times/dates will be annotated in the BAA. The initial closing time/date is THE timeframe to submit proposals.
- BAA will cover all info needed to propose.
- Following the proposal preparation instructions assists the evaluation team to clearly understand what is being proposed and supports a timely negotiation



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ELIGIBILITY

- All interested/qualified sources may respond subject to the parameters outlined in BAA
- Foreign participants/resources may participate to the extent allowed by applicable Security Regulations, Export Control Laws, Non-Disclosure Agreements, etc.
- FFRDCs and Government entities are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to this BAA in any capacity, unless they clearly demonstrate the work is NOT otherwise available from the private sector AND provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority establishing eligibility to propose to Government solicitations and (for FFRDCs) written authorization from the sponsoring agency.
- Procurement Integrity: Potential Conflicts of Interest – Identify and discuss mitigation – failure to do so will result in proposal rejection without technical evaluation or further consideration for award



POTENTIAL AWARD INSTRUMENTS

- FAR Based Procurement Contracts
- Cooperative Agreements – NO GRANTS
- Other Transaction Agreements (TIA and 845 Prototypes)

The contracting officer shall have sole discretion to select award instrument type and to negotiate all instrument provisions with selectees.



PROPOSAL PREPARATION INFORMATION

- Consists of two volumes – Technical (with required Appendix A and optional Appendix B) and Cost
- Volume I - Technical and Management
 - Volume I will have a page limitation as indicated in the BAA. The evaluation team will not review any submitted pages that exceed the Volume I limit.
 - Volume I includes a mandatory Appendix A and optional Appendix B. The Appendixes do not count towards Volume I's page limit total(s).
- Volume II – Cost – No page limitation
- BAA describes the necessary information to address in each volume –
 - Make sure to include every section identified
 - If section does not apply – put "None" (e.g. Animal Use – None, OCI - None)
 - Include a working spreadsheet as part of your Cost Volume submission
 - Remember: Appendix A is mandatory and must include every sub-section



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PROPOSAL PREP – TECHNICAL DATA RIGHTS

- Government desires, at a minimum, **Government Purpose Rights** for any proposed noncommercial software (including source code), software documentation, hardware designs and documentation, and technical data.
- Data Rights Assertions – Assert rights to all technical data & computer software generated, developed, and/or delivered to which the Government will receive **less than Unlimited Rights**. This information may be assessed during evaluations.
 - Provide and justify basis of assertions that apply to the Prime and any Subs. A prescribed format will be included in the BAA. Break out these assertions in a separate table (if possible) to be included as an attachment to a resultant contract or agreement.
 - Explain how the Government will be able to reach its program goals (including transition) within the proprietary model offered; and
 - Provide possible nonproprietary alternatives in any areas that might present transition difficulties or increased risk or cost to the Government under the proposed proprietary solution. NOTE: Offerors expecting to use, but not to deliver, open source tools or other materials in implementing their approach may be required to indemnify the Government against any legal liability arising from such use.



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ITEMS TO NOTE

- Understand and be compliant with Central Contractor Registration (CCR), Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), Electronic and Information Technology compliance, Employment Eligibility Verification (E-verify), Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards and Updates of Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (FAPIIS)
- Awardees will be required to use i-Edison, T-FIMS and Wide Area Workflow (WAWF)
- Subcontracting Issues
 - NON SMALL BUSINESSES: Subcontracting Plans required for FAR based contracts with subcontracting possibilities expected to exceed \$650,000
 - Subcontractor cost - Proposals must include, at a minimum, a non-proprietary, subcontractor proposal for EACH subcontractor
 - If utilizing FFRDC, Government entity, or a foreign owned firm as a subcontractor, submit their required eligibility information



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- Proposals must be valid for a minimum of 120 days
- If a prospective proposer believes a conflict of interest exists or may exist (whether organizational or otherwise) or has a question on what constitutes a conflict, the proposer should promptly raise the issue with DARPA by sending the proposer's contact information and a summary of the potential conflict to the BAA mailbox before preparing a proposal and mitigation plan.
- Document files must be in Portable Document Format (.pdf, ISO 32000-1), OpenDocument (.odx, ISO/IEC 26300:2006), .doc, .docx, .xls, or .xlsx formats.
- Submissions must be written in English.



ITEMS TO NOTE – NEW ITEMS

- 2 new certification requirements:
 1. Representation by Corporations Regarding Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction Under Any Federal Law – Applies to ALL
 2. Cost Accounting Standards Notices and Certification (Deviation 2012-00003 (JAN 2012) – Applies to ALL proposed FAR-based procurement contracts over \$700K
- New DARPA Mailing Address:

675 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-2114



PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- The BAA outlines proposal submission procedures for both unclassified and classified proposals:
 - Follow procedures detailed in BAA - Failure to comply with the submission procedures may result in the submission not being evaluated
 - Proposers must submit their entire proposal via the same method; applications cannot be submitted in part via one method and in part via another method nor should duplicate submissions be sent via multiple methods.
- DO NOT email or fax proposals
- DO NOT wait until the last minute to submit proposals – submission deadlines are strictly enforced and late submissions may not be evaluated



EVALUATION / AWARD

- No common Statement of Work - Proposal evaluated on individual merit and relevance as it relates to the stated research goals/objectives rather than against each other.
- Evaluation Criteria will be identified in the BAA.
- Evaluation Process is a scientific/technical review - Reviews conducted by panels of experts that may include contracted Government SETAs bound by strict nondisclosure agreements.
- Government reserves the right to select for award all, some, or none of the proposals received, to award portions of a proposal, and to award with or without discussions.
- No portion of this announcement will be set aside for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Small Businesses, Small Disadvantaged Businesses and Minority Institutions (MIs) and no preferences apply.



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COMMUNICATION

- Prior to Receipt of Proposals – No restrictions, however Gov't (PM/PCO) shall not dictate solutions or transfer technology. FAQs will be periodically posted to this BAA's DARPA Web page.
- After Receipt of Proposals – Prior to Selection: Government (PM/PCO) may communicate with offerors in order to understand the meaning of some aspect of the proposal that is not clear or to obtain confirmation or substantiation of a proposed approach, solution, or cost estimate.
- After Selection/Prior to Award: Government (PCO) may clarify aspects of the proposal and/or may conduct negotiations. Government (PM/COR/PCO) may clarify the Statement of Work or, in cases where only portions of the proposal are accepted, may discuss reductions to the scope to match the selected effort.
- Informal feedback for non-selected proposals may be provided once the selection(s) are made.

Only a duly authorized Contracting Officer may obligate the Government